

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-54 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 14-17, 19, 32-35, 37, 50-52 without introducing any new matter.

In order to clarify Applicant's invention, independent Claims 1, 14-17, 19, 32-35, 37 and 50-52 are amended. In particular, independent Claims 1, 14-17, 37 and 50-52 are amended to further recite "during an image forming period." Independent Claims 19 and 32-35 are amended to recite "said controlling performed during said heating and fixing." The changes to the independent Claims finds non-limiting support in Applicants' Specification as originally filed, for example from page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 2, in original Claim 53 and in Figures 2A-2C.

Generally summarizing, Applicant's invention, as recited in Claim 1, relates to an image forming apparatus including a heater, a detector configured to detect a current supplied from an external power source to the image forming apparatus, a battery, a charger and a controller configured to control the charger such that the current supplied from the charger to the battery changes based on the current detected by the detector during an image forming period. As explained in Applicant's Specification at page 2, line 29 to page 3, line 21 with corresponding Figure 5, Applicant's invention improves upon conventional image forming apparatuses because is capable of efficiently charging a battery that is supplying energy to a heater. Independent Claims 14-17, 19, 32-35, 37 and 50-53 recite similar features in the context of an image forming apparatus (Claims 14-17), an image forming method (Claims 19 and 32-35) and an image forming system (Claims 37 and 50-53).

The Application has been allowed with the Notice of Allowance mailed on April 18, 2005. However, Applicant requests continued examination of the Application in light of the

references cited in the Japanese Office Action of June 27, 2005, the references and the Japanese Office Action filed herewith by Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-54 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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